

Thornston (Bb.)

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S I R,

L O N D O N,

AS in the present extended intercourse among nations, a wider field of inquiry and observation is opened to the Man of Genius, than at any former period; it is not to be wondered at that prejudices imbibed in youth, and which in less enlightened Times set Mankind at variance when ripened into Age, should now subside. Science and liberality of Sentiment commonly go hand in hand. But while the principles of Equity, Moderation, and Benevolence, prevail in a considerable degree among the higher orders of the people, it is much to be lamented that disorders of the most pernicious tendency, pervade the lower ranks; and that *reformation* with respect to them, has till of late, been rather a matter of solicitude and desire, than of serious expectation.

Happily however not only for the present, but also for future Generations, a remedy to these evils has been discovered, in the establishment of SUNDAY SCHOOLS; of the success of which, the Society have received the most indubitable proofs. Embracing the illiterate poor of every description, they promise fair to eradicate, in a very great degree; those vicious habits, and that consequent wretchedness, which have at all times been so much deplored. That Sabbath-breaking may be prevented, and no ambitious views excited to the prejudice of that station in which providence has placed them, "The exercise of the Scholars is restricted to reading in the Old and New Testament, and to spelling as a preparative for it."

The Society have no cause to complain of want of attention to their plan. The instruction afforded to near *Fifty Thousand* poor persons in less than five years, having exceeded their most sanguine expectation. But while they congratulate themselves and the public on such an extension of their Institution; they are constrained by the present state of their funds, to make a fresh appeal to you; and through you, to such of your Friends as may be likely to patronize a design, which has perhaps a superior claim upon the humane and benevolent, to any other establishment: For not to detract from the merit of other charities, which open sources of consolation for present sufferings; or to arraign the wisdom of laws made for the punishment of crimes; this proceeds on the more enlarged and truly political principle of endeavouring to prevent them.

Sensible

Sensible of the advantages the community must derive from this institution, the *Society* feel great concern in being under the necessity of adding, that their expences have lately much exceeded their receipts. The applications for assistance are numerous, and it would give pain to refuse them, when sanctioned by proper recommendations. On your exertions, therefore, and those of a generous public they depend, for the completion of a reform so happily begun, and in which mankind are so deeply interested.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMITTEE,

HENRY THORNTON, CHAIRMAN.

Subscriptions and Donations are taken in by the following Bankers:

Messrs. BARNETT, HOARE, HILL, and BARNETT, *Lombard-Street*;

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Messrs. MARTIN, STONE, and Co. *Lombard-Street*;

By the MEMBERS of the COMMITTEE; and by the SECRETARY, at the Society's Office,
No. 47, *Cornhill*.

